

# State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster

## Budget Communications Memo

### Global Literacy and Competitiveness



#### **Background**

Recognizing that children in other countries learn two or three languages before finishing high school, giving them an edge in the global marketplace, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster's budget provides funding for elementary world language instruction. Additionally, it provides competitive seed grants for advanced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses to address achievement and participation gaps in those subject and support economic development in Wisconsin.

#### **Budget Request**

	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>FY 09</b>
<b>World Languages Initiative for Elementary Schools</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$837,500</b>

Provide funding for the first year of a project entitled the World Languages Initiative for Elementary Schools. Twenty-five new sites will be added each year through the first four years of the program. The grant will pay a portion of teaching salaries for teachers hired under this program for a limited time during the build-up of the program, starting with first grade and adding a grade level each year until the language instruction is in place in grades 1-6.

<b>Wisconsin Education for STEM</b>	<b>\$157,500</b>	<b>\$157,500</b>
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Provide funding to address achievement and participation gaps in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and in career pursuits regarding these fields. Help PK-12 educators develop classroom assessment models to better identify and support students in their STEM-related learning. \$61,500 annually for mini-grants to school districts on a competitive basis for seed money to develop innovative STEM instructional programming targeting students underrepresented in STEM and increase academic and technical achievement.

<b>Career and Employability Skills</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>
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Provide \$50,000 in each year of the biennium to fund career counseling professional development to get high quality post-secondary and career counseling services to more PK-12 students in an equitable manner. Also provide \$75,000 in each year of the biennium for the development, validation, training, and implementation of a web-based Employability Skills Assessment (ESA). This new system would be created by the Center on Education and Work (CEW) at the University of Wisconsin. The ESA could support the state's Employability Skills Certificate program and would be aligned to the Wisconsin Career Assessment currently available to eighth and tenth grade students.

***Investing in our Future***